

Low yield of Rice in Low Lying and Deep Water Regions

2177. SHRI RUDOLPH RODRIGUES : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problem of low yield faced by rice farmers in low lying and deep water regions ;

(b) if so, steps, if any, proposed to assist such farmers with modern agro-technology to overcome low yield ; and

(c) contribution being made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in tackling this situation ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Generally the short-statured high yielding varieties are not suitable for low land areas. Therefore, a number of photo-sensitive, medium tall, promising varieties with comparatively longer duration have been developed through research efforts. Such varieties include CR-1006, CR-1009 (West Bengal and Orissa), Chakia 59 (U.P.), CNL 31, CNL 53 etc. which can stand shallow submergence.

For low lying areas experiencing submergence 30 to 50 cms. or above, varieties such as Jaladhi-1, Jaladhi-2 (West Bengal), 64-117 (Bihar), Jalmagna, Madhukar (U.P.), Mahsuri, N.C. 1281, DW 48 and CMS-12 Manoharnali, RP 6-12, MTU-8002, IET-5656, etc. have been found promising. Some of the lines, like, BKN 6986108-3 possess higher degree of submergence tolerance.

Besides identifying the above mentioned varieties, certain production and protection technology has also been developed. To extend the available technology for the low lying and flood prone areas, the I.C.A.R. is organising operational research projects to test ; demonstrate and disseminate the technology to the farmers in Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa.

(c) I.C.A.R. is giving due emphasis in their research priorities relating to development of high-yielding varieties of rice suitable for low lying areas. Major emphasis is being laid to set forth a new strategy for high stability varieties and cost-efficient technology to suit the water logged, low land flood prone areas of the country. Special research centres,

like Ghagrahat in U.P., Pusa in Bihar and Chinsurah in West Bengal are engaged for rice research for low lying, flood prone area.

Sex Education in Schools

2178. DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI : Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision to introduce Sex Education in Schools in the country ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) by when it will be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER) : (a) to (c). No Sir. However, as a part of Population Education some information is being imparted in regard to reproduction in plants, animals and the reproductive system in human beings at the Secondary School stage. Certain concepts on re-production and development in plants animals and human beings are included in the integrated science also syllabus of middle classes, secondary and higher secondary courses on life sciences.

Memorandum from Dandakaranya Employees' Association (NG)

2179. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received a memorandum dated 20th October, 1978 from the Dandakaranya Employees' Association (NG) ; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to redress the grievances of the employees ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Association has mainly referred to the question of continued grant of Project Allowance and Bad Climate Allowance to the employees of the Dandakaranya Project. Necessary orders for payment of the Project Allowance upto